



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Contact: Sherry Llewellyn, 410-313-2236
stllewellyn@howardcountymd.gov

Police continue search for David Gipson Smith, reported missing in Woodbine last month

Howard County police are continuing to investigate the disappearance of 28-year-old David Gipson Smith, who went missing in Woodbine last month, but have found no leads indicating his possible whereabouts.

Smith had come to Maryland from his home in New Jersey and was last seen Aug. 6 by a friend who reported dropping him off in the general area of the 2000 block of Woodbine Road.

Police received information that Smith was using drugs the day before his disappearance, believed to be heroin, and that he did not have a place to stay in Maryland. He reportedly indicated that he planned to spend the night outside.

Authorities received a missing person report six days later, on Aug. 12, and at the time conducted a large-scale land and air search of the area, including nearby farmland, woods and a pond.

Investigators have learned that Smith has left home in the past for weeks or months at a time and believe it's possible he may have traveled away from the Maryland area after he went missing.

Detectives also have learned that Smith packed many of his belongings when he left New Jersey, including luggage and other possessions. According to witnesses, Smith left his car parked in Elkridge and asked for a ride from a friend on the day of his disappearance. It appears he took the possessions he could carry, but left the rest behind in the car.

Since his disappearance, police have determined that there has been no activity on Smith's cell phone, no use of his debit or credit cards, and no postings on his social media accounts. Police have followed up on reported sightings of Smith and checked with local hospitals and shelters, but none have been viable leads.

While police have found no evidence of foul play at this stage of the investigation, they are considering every possibility. Detectives are concerned for Smith's welfare due to the duration of his absence and his history of drug and alcohol use.

Smith is described as a white male, 6 ft. 4 in. tall, weighing 230 pounds. He has several tattoos on his chest, torso and arms. Police do not have a clothing description. Anyone with information should contact Howard County police at 410-313-STOP or email HCPDcrimetips@howardcountymd.gov. Anyone who sees Smith should call 911.

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